Translation
Yuki
Edits/Proof
Enigma
ISKU_TRIP SCANS
http://isku-trip.marylaye.net

IT'S OKAY TO THINK OF US AS YOUR PARENTS
AND DEPEND ON US.
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM FROM NOW ON, KAZUKI-CHAN.
TELL US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE.
MR. MORITA...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AH, THESE ARE ALL YOUR THINGS?
DEBT COLLECTORS ARE TERRIBLE PEOPLE. THEY'RE SO HEARTLESS.

I'VE PREPARED SOME SWEETS DOWN-STAIRS.
COME DOWN AFTER YOU'VE CHANGED CLOTHES
I'M SORRY, KAZUKI
I'LL GET BETTER RIGHT AWAY
YOUR MOM DIED WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG,
AND I'VE BEEN BUSY MANAGING THE COMPANY YOU MUST'VE BEEN LONELY, HAVEN'T YOU?
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHEN I GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL..
YOU LIED, DAD...

DAD...
YOU SAID YOU'D GET BETTER!
YOU WERE GOING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT EVERY-THING!
YOUR OLD MAN CAUGHT A COLD?
THAT'S REALLY UNBELIEVABLE
SO YOU REALLY AREN'T GOING?
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. MY DAD ASKED ME TO VISIT A CUSTOMER THIS MORNING.
TODAY'S THE LAST DAY WE CAN USE THE MOVIE TICKETS WE GOT FROM HAZUKI
YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID, "DAD! I'M GOING TO A MOVIE TODAY, SO I'LL DO IT TOMRROW!"
I KNOW THINGS ARE AWKWARD BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR OLD MAN.
I JUST THOUGHT I'D SAY IT OUT LOUD.
YOU DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER UNLESS IT'S ABOUT WORK.

GOOD LUCK, MR. WORKING STUDENT!
SEE YA!
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE ALWAYS GO OFF-TOPIC, BUT HE GETS STRAIGHT TO THE POINT WITH ME.
YOU'RE KOUJUN-SAN'S SON?
I DIDN'T KNOW HE ALREADY HAD A GROWN-UP SON
THIS ONE AND THIS ONE ..
I GOT THEM FROM AN ANTIQUE SHOP YESTERDAY.
I THINK THEY'LL BECOME EVEN FINER SWORDS IF YOUR FATHER POLISHES THEM UP.

SOME-ONE'S HERE ABOUT THE SWORDS?
HE HAS A PRETTY GOOD EYE FOR SWORDS
HE GETS HAPPY WHEN HE FINDS A NEW ONE
COME TO THINK OF IT,
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S HIS HOBBY, YOU SEE
YOUR FATHER WAS INTERESTED IN SWORDS, TOO, WASN'T HE, KAZUKI-CHAN?
BUT THE DEBT COLLECTOR TOOK ALL HIS SWORDS AWAY
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOUNG ONES LIKE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE APPEAL OF SWORDS
RIGHT.
TAKE GOOD CARE HANDLING IT.
A HEAVY ATMOSPHERE...
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE SWORDS...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THOSE EXPRESSIONS?
BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE IN A WELCOMING MOOD AT ALL.
SHARPENING SHOULD BE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR A SWORD
UMM...
COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
IT'S A MEMENTO FROM MY FATHER!
I WAS TOLD TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
YOU MUSTN'T BRING THAT HERE, KAZUKI-CHAN!

お…お!!…
HUH?
LET ME SEE THAT, KAZUKI-CHAN!
AH,
?
AHH!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I WAS EXPECTING YOU...
TO BE SOMEONE A LITTLE OLDER
おあー
AH, I'VE COMPLETELY DISAPPOINTED HER
I'M REPRESENT-ING MY FATHER TODAY.
THIS HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN THROUGH THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE SAEKI FAMILY...
IT EVEN HAS THE MARK OF MITSUDOU* BY OKI...
UNCLE, PUT THE SWORD AWAY...
I'M SCARED.
SWORDS ARE USED TO KILL, AREN'T THEY?
ふがっ
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A MEMENTO OF MY FATHER, I FEEL SCARED HAVING A SWORD IN THE ROOM.
SO I WANTED HIM TO TAKE IT

*If a sword was inscribed with "Mitsudou", this would indicate that it had been tested to be able to cut through three bodies at once.

DID MORITA-SAN JUST TRY TO COVER UP THIS MENTION OF OKISATO?
YOU SAID IT HAD THE MARK OF MITSUDOU.
THAT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR FATHER LEFT A SWORD TO A YOUNG GIRL.
YOU'RE SCARED?
THE MARK OF MITSUDOU MEANS THAT
THIS SWORD HAS ACTUALLY CUT THROUGH THREE PEOPLE.
IF I SAID THAT...
KAZUKI-CHAN MIGHT GET SCARED AGAIN.

YOUR ANCESTORS HAD A CRAFTSMAN MAKE A SWORD
THEN HIRED A PROFESSIONAL SWORD TESTER TO PROVE ITS CUTTING ABILITY.
A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ENTRUSTED HIM WITH THE TASK OF EXECUTING PEOPLE.
AT THE EXECUTION GROUNDS OF DOTANBA, THE SWORD SLICED THROUGH THE NECKS OF THE CRIMINALS,
THEN THE DRAINED CORPSES WERE BROUGHT TO THE TESTING GROUND NEXT DOOR.
STOP...

THE CORPSES WERE PILED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER,
THEN HE SWUNG HIS SWORD WIDELY,
AND CUT THE THREE CORPSES IN HALF!
STOP!

YOU CAN'T TALK TO A GIRL LIKE THAT, MORITA-SAN
I CAN'T WATCH. I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT GIRL WITH NO RELATIVES
SHE'S BEEN TRICKED, THREATENED, AND HAD EVERYTHING TAKEN AWAY FROM HER
TRICKED?
THE APPRENTICE CAN SEE US?!
IT CAN'T BE!
NEVER MIND THAT! SHE'S BEING TRICKED BY WHO?!
HURRY UP AND TELL ME!
MISS KAZUKI
IS BEING TRICKED BY THAT OLD RACCOON
PLEASE! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US,
TAKE MISS KAZUKI SOMEWHERE SAFE!

I HATE LOOKING AT SWORDS, UNCLE...
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO TO KEEP SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN USED TO KILL?
I KNOW
SO, WHY NOT GIVE THE SWORD TO ME?
NAGASONE OKISATO... AN ARMOUR MAKER WHO LEFT EDO AND BECAME A BLACKSMITH..
HE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CRAFTSMAN WHOSE SWORDS WERE REGARDED AS HAVING A CLEAR SURFACE AND THE SHARPEST EDGES.
EVEN SOMEONE WHO ISN'T AN ENTHUSIAST WOULD RECOGNISE "KOTETSU", THE NAME HE LATER CALLED HIMSELF
HMM.
IT SEEMS THAT YOU AT LEAST KNOW THE BASICS..
HEY!
CHILDREN SHOULDN'T HANDLE...

YASURIME - WHERE THE SURFACE OF THE HANDLE AREA HAS BEEN FILED.
THERE'S NO CONCERN ABOUT THIS SWORD.
BUT ITS APPEARANCE, HAMON*, AND YASURIME ARE ALL AS THEY SHOULD BE!
IT'S SAID THAT THERE ARE MANY FAKE KOTETSU SWORDS.
SWORDS
*Hamon - literally translated as "blade pattern" and refers to the effect created by the hardening process.
...
THIS KID...
IT SHOULD FETCH A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT IF IT GOES ON THE MARKET
IT'S APPROPRIATE TO BE A MEMENTO.
OF COURSE.
YOU KNEW THAT TOO, DIDN'T YOU, MORITA-SAN?

Y-YES ..
YOU GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME, DON'T YOU, NARIKAWA-KUN?
YOU'RE REALLY USED TO HANDLING SWORDS
I WAS SURPRISED YOU'RE LIKE AN ADULT
I'VE JUST BEEN HELPING OUT MY FAMILY SINCE I WAS YOUNGER
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING STRANGE, BUT DON'T GET MAD
DON'T THE OTHER SWORDS IN THAT ROOM BELONG TO YOUR FATHER, TOO?
!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MY FATHER'S SWORDS WERE ALL TAKEN AWAY BY A DEBT COLLECTOR A FEW DAYS AGO
WHEN I CAME HOME FROM THE FUNERAL, THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY..

I'M SORRY THAT YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS,
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T LET GO OF A PRECIOUS MEMENTO JUST BECAUSE OF A FRIGHTENING STORY.
MY UNCLE IS A GOOD PERSON WHO HELPED ME WHEN I WAS ALONE,
WHEN I HAD NO WHERE TO GO
BUT...
SHE WAS TRICKED AND THREATENED
HER BELONGINGS WERE TAKEN AWAY
I'M STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT ADULTS TAKING CARE OF ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO END UP ALONE!
I SHOULD STILL BE ABLE LIVE LIKE A CHILD,
BUT INSTEAD, I HAVE TO FACE
THE FRIGHTENING WORLD OF THINGS LIKE DEBT COLLECTORS AND SWORDS!

SORRY
I HATE IT!
I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT IT ANYMORE
HOW-EVER,
THE SWORD ITSELF SEEMS TO BE IN A SORRY STATE
YOUNG MASTER,
YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF ANOTHER NOTORIOUSLY FINE SWORD
IT'S SHARPNESS IS EVEN CLEAR FROM BENEATH ITS SHEATH
I'M TAKING CARE OF IT SO THAT THE RECORD... CAN'T BE ALTERED
THAT, IMPORTANT MEMENTO IS A SWORD WHICH WAS USED TO CUT THROUGH THREE BODIES.

A DECORATIVE SWORD LIKE ME WOULD GREATLY ADMIRE THE SHARPEST SWORD,
YOU WOULDN'T THINK HE WAS A SWORD THAT'D CUT THROUGH THREE BODIES
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
BUT I'M A LITTLE DISAP-POINTED
HMPH
YOU SHOULDN'T BE RELAX-ING
WHEN YOUR MISTRESS IS IN TROUBLE!
HE'S QUITE RUSTY, YOUNG MASTER!
AHHH!
I don't want to look!
HAAA...
ボー
ボー
THE BLADE IS CLEAN, THOUGH..
ブロリ!!

HMMM
THIS MAINTE-NANCE SET!
ALL OUR SWORDS ARE VERY FOND OF
I MADE THIS POWDER BY CRUSHING A SHARPENING STONE.
THIS CLOVE OIL IS BRAND NEW. IT'S GOOD QUALITY, AND IT SMELLS GREAT, TOO!
IF HE'S NOT RUSTY, THEN SHARPENING WON'T HAVE THE BEST EFFECT
IT SEEMS THAT HE'S TRYING TO PERSUADE HIM WITH MATERIAL THINGS...
YOUNG MASTER
I'll wipe you with a silk cloth...
Come on...
PANTS
ぎゅっ
ケラケラ

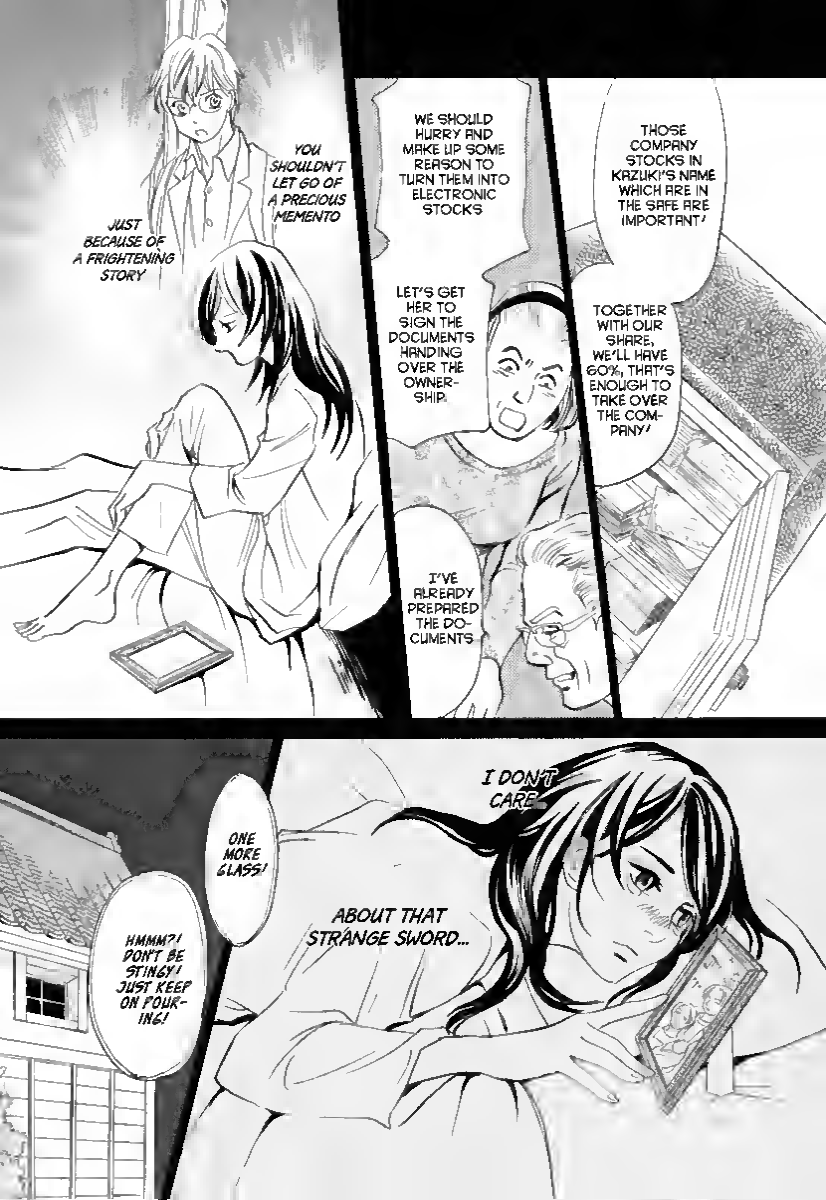
WHAT CAUGHT HIS EYE? THE SAKAKI PLANT, THE TEMPLE, OR THE MIRROR?
HE JUST LOOKED AT THE ALTAR...?
THAT OKISATO'S MITSUDOU IS QUITE A HEAVY DRINKER...
HMMM... HIS GAZE FOCUSED ON THERE FOR A MOMENT.
IS THERE SOMETHING ON THE ALTAR, YOUNG MASTER?
I HEARD FROM SOME SWORDS I KNOW...
I'M SURE IT'S RIGHT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CUPBOARD...
FATHER AND GRANDPA'S...

AKIRA
THE SWORDS BELONGING TO MORITA-SAN..
BEST WINE .
I'M SURE THERE WERE
QUITE A FEW OF THEM..
ONE OF THEM TODAY..
I'VE ONLY BROUGHT BACK

HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE, DAD
GOOD NIGHT!
WINE?
HE'S GOING TO DRINK IT...?
I DID THIS SAME THING AT HIS AGE...
I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING...
Make sure you take it
OH?
IT HASN'T BEEN OPENED YET. I WONDER IF THAT'S OKAY?
EHP THERE'S A CORK, TOO?!
HMMM
THAT GAVE ME A SHOCK...
BUT IF THIS ENCOURAGES MITSUDOU TO TALK...

YOUNG MASTER
YOU'VE EXHAUSTED ALL YOUR OPTIONS AND RESORTED TO DOING SOMETHING FORBIDDEN
HERE YOU GO
DRINK UP
くる
WINE IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HELP ME BE AT PEACE
SUFFERING IS EVERYWHERE I LOOK.

AHH!
THIS TASTES GREAT!
HEY,
YES.
DID NARIKAWA'S SON TAKE KOTETSU'S SWORD?
I'M WORRIED THAT HE'S SEEN THROUGH MY PLANS
FORTUNATELY, KAZUKI ISN'T INTERESTED IN SWORDS.
SHE HASN'T NOTICED THAT ALL THOSE SWORDS BELONG TO HER FATHER
I WOULD EVEN SAY THAT SHE HATES SWORDS
THAT MITSUDOU WILL BE MINE EVENTUALLY.


YOU SHOULDN'T LET GO OF A PRECIOUS MEMENTO
JUST BECAUSE OF A FRIGHTENING STORY
WE SHOULD HURRY AND MAKE UP SOME REASON TO TURN THEM INTO ELECTRONIC STOCKS
LET'S GET HER TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS HANDING OVER THE OWNER-SHIP.
I'VE ALREADY PREPARED THE DO-CUMENTS
THOSE COMPANY STOCKS IN KAZUKI'S NAME WHICH ARE IN THE SAFE ARE IMPORTANT!
TOGETHER WITH OUR SHARE, WE'LL HAVE 60%, THAT'S ENOUGH TO TAKE OVER THE COM-PANY!
I DON'T CARE
ABOUT THAT STRANGE SWORD...
ONE MORE GLASS!
HMMM?! DON'T BE STINGY! JUST KEEP ON POUR-ING!

I'M NOT SHOWING OFF, BUT I LOOK GOOD AND I CUT WELL
BUT SAEKI-DONO
I WAS VERY MUCH IN DEMAND FROM COLLECTORS
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY WAS OFFERED,
IF HE SAID HE WOULDN'T SELL, THAT WAS THAT.
BECAUSE I WAS A TRULY LOVED SWORD, HE EVEN HAD ME TESTED. HE WOULDN'T LET GO OF ME!
HE CARED FOR ME GREATLY
I HAVEN'T EVER LEFT THE SAEKI FAMILY SINCE THE TIME I WAS MADE
YOU! THAT'S A GREAT DEBT!
HAVING THE SAME NAME YOUR WHOLE LIFE IS A GREAT FORTUNE!
BUT I LET KAZUKI-DONO'S PARENTS DIE
IT WAS MY FAULT IT'S BECAUSE I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH
AND NOW SHE'S AFRAID OF ME...

THE JAPANESE LOVE THEIR SWORDS AND TAKE CARE OF THEM.
BUT THE SWORDS ALSO LOVE THEIR OWNERS JUST AS MUCH..
NO, EVEN MORE THAN THAT.
HE FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS MASTER'S DEATH..
NO IT'S NOT ME THAT SHE'S AFRAID OF... BUT LIVING INSTEAD...
SO THOSE ARE MITSUDOU'S TRUE FEELINGS?
AH!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING.
I HATE LOOKING AT SWORDS!
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO KEEPING SOMETHING THAT'S USED TO KILL?
BUT CONSIDERING HOW HIS CUR-RENT OWNER IS
NO WAY! IT'S EMPTY!
AND IT WAS DAIGINJO* WINE, TOO...
*Daiginjo is high quality rice wine, where at least 50% of the outer rice kernel has been milled away

THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, KAZUKI-SAN
THIS IS ONE MORE PROBLEM!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AKIRA'S BROUGHT A GIRL HERE!
PAPA, IT'S A GIRL!
THE WINGS OF THE BIRDS CARVED ON THE SWORD'S GUARD PLATE HAVE THE DETAILED LINES OF THE FEATHERS, DON'T THEY?
LOOK CAREFULLY
THERE'S ALSO A SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF DOTS ON THE BACKGROUND, TOO. DO YOU SEE IT?
THAT'S TRUE...

PIN - an attachment that can be fitted to the sheath. It was originally used as a grooming tool.
IT'S ALMOST SUPERHUMAN LOOK, THIS PIN HAS THE SAME PATTERN ..
CHISEL - This chisel is made completely from steel.
USING A HAMMER AND A CHISEL.
A CRAFTSMAN CARVED ALL THESE BY HAND,
THESE ARE SO DETAILED THAT THEY'RE EVEN DIFFICULT TO SEE WITH A MAGNIFYING GLASS!
AHH I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I DIDN'T KNOW..
THIS SWORD IS A WORK OF ART.

IT WAS HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO
I'LL WATCH YOU, SO TRY AND TOUCH IT DIRECTLY
EH?
WHEN IT WAS USED ON PEOPLE
I WONDER WHY
IT FEELS SO WARM, EVEN THOUGH IT'S MADE OF METAL.
DON'T YOU HAVE A DAY OFF TODAY, DAD?
KAZUKI, YOU MUSTN'T COME IN WHILE I'M MAINTAINING SWORDS!
PLAY WITH ME!
I REMEM-BER ..
RIGHT . THIS HANDLE AREA CALLED THE NAKAGO
WAS WHERE MY DAD HELD THE SWORD.

*NAKAGO* - The area where the hilt of the sword goes

MITSUDO
STARTED MOVING!
I'M TOUCH-ING
WHAT MY FATHER TOUCHED
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR FATHER
YOUR RELATIVES FROM THE SAEKI FAMILY, TOO
THEY WILL ALL PROTECT YOU
COME, MITSUDOU!
WHAT WILL YOU CUT?

ひた
EH?
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO CUT BOTH OF YOU
FOR-GIVE ME
THANK YOU, AKIKA-DONO
MY MIS-TRESS' TRUST HAS GIVEN ME STRENGTH
THAT IS MY MISSION.
MITSUDO?!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?!
YOU WERE NOT MY MAIN TARGET
LOOK AT HER CHEST

WHAT HAVE I
BEEN DOING?
I WAS IN TEARS ALL THE TIME.
NO... THIS ISN'T GOOD!
!
HEY! ALL THOSE WORDS FROM YESTERDAY...
I REMEMBER NOW! THEY LOOKED JUST LIKE THE ONES THAT MY DAD HAD!
AHHHH!
EARLIER I SIGNED SOME DOCUMENTS, JUST LIKE MY UNCLE TOLD ME TO!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN I'VE GIVEN UP THE STOCKS FROM MY DAD'S COMPANY?

KAZUKI-SAN!
THE SWORD!
ARE YOU STILL AFRAID OF IT?
I'M GOING HOME
THERE MIGHT BE OTHER THINGS THAT MY DAD LEFT BEHIND.
I CAN'T BE AFRAID OF IT.
I MIGHT BE LIVING ON MY OWN FROM NOW ON, YOU SEE.
I WON'T GIVE THIS SWORD... OR ANY OF THE OTHERS... AWAY SO EASILY!
THANK YOU, NARIKAWA-SAN!

HE SKILLFULLY CUT THROUGH YOUR FEAR!
IT WAS A CAPTIVATING SLASH!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE SHARPEST SWORD!
WE MIGHT GET TO HEAR THE YOUNG MASTER MAKE A MASCULINE COMEBACK TODAY!
THERE'S AN ETIQUETTE TO DRINKING IN SECRET!
AKIRA!
DRINKING A WHOLE BOTTLE OF DAIGINJO IN ONE NIGHT IS AN INCREDIBLY SILLY THING TO DO!
HOW DARE YOU TALK TO YOUR PARENT LIKE THAT!
HE'S ONLY BECOME OBLIVIOUS TO FEAR!
AS HE WASN'T MITSUDO'S MAIN TARGET.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
YOU CAN'T DRINK IT BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A COLD.